

**Department of Energy**

Washington, DC 20545

OCT 13 1987

Dr. George Ansell, President
Colorado School of Mines
Research Institute
Golden, Colorado 80403

Dear Dr. Ansell:

As you may know, the Department of Energy (DOE) is evaluating the radiological condition of sites that were utilized under the Manhattan Engineer District (MED) and the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) during the early years of nuclear development to determine whether they need remedial action. Mr. J. Krause of the Colorado School of Mines Research Institute was notified by letter (Mott to Krause, March 21, 1979) that the Institute was being considered as one such site because of work done there during the 1950's. This work was conducted under two contracts; one involving physical concentration and pilot plant testing of various uranium ores, and another involving the preparation of a book on uranium ore processing. After the termination of the AEC-sponsored activities, the site continued work with uranium ores under a State of Colorado license.

A screening survey of the Institute was conducted in 1977, and some elevated levels were found in an area of the facility known as the high bay area. This material was embedded in concrete surfaces. There was no way, however, to determine if the activity was a result of past AEC work or from work conducted under State license. The tailings disposal area and the bank of the waste pond were found to be in excess of background levels with a maximum measurement of one millirem per hour; these tailings were the result of work conducted under State license. Because the facility was under State license after the AEC work expired, and the site was being monitored by the organization's Radiation Protection Officer, no further surveys were recommended.

This letter, along with the enclosed summary report and supporting information, represents the results of DOE's review to determine if the site contains residual radioactive contamination traceable to the actions conducted on behalf of the AEC. The report is provided to you as the representative of the site owner, for your information. On the basis of the review, the Department has determined that, because the activity discovered cannot be differentiated from licensed work, DOE has no jurisdiction over the activities at this site, and because the site was adequately controlled under the State license, the site was eliminated from further consideration under its Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP). This package was prepared as the final DOE action at this site under FUSRAP.

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES
Golden, Colorado

Site Function

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) entered into two contracts with the Colorado School of Mines. One contract, AT(49-6)-916, involved physical concentration and pilot plant testing of various uranium ores. Another, AT(05-1)-462, involved the preparation of a book on uranium ore processing. Work with uranium ores continues under a State of Colorado license.

Site Description

The site is located offcampus and consists of a large wooden building and a tailings pond (see attached figure). The front portion of the building contains offices and is a two-story structure. The remaining part of the building is a high one-story structure containing laboratories.

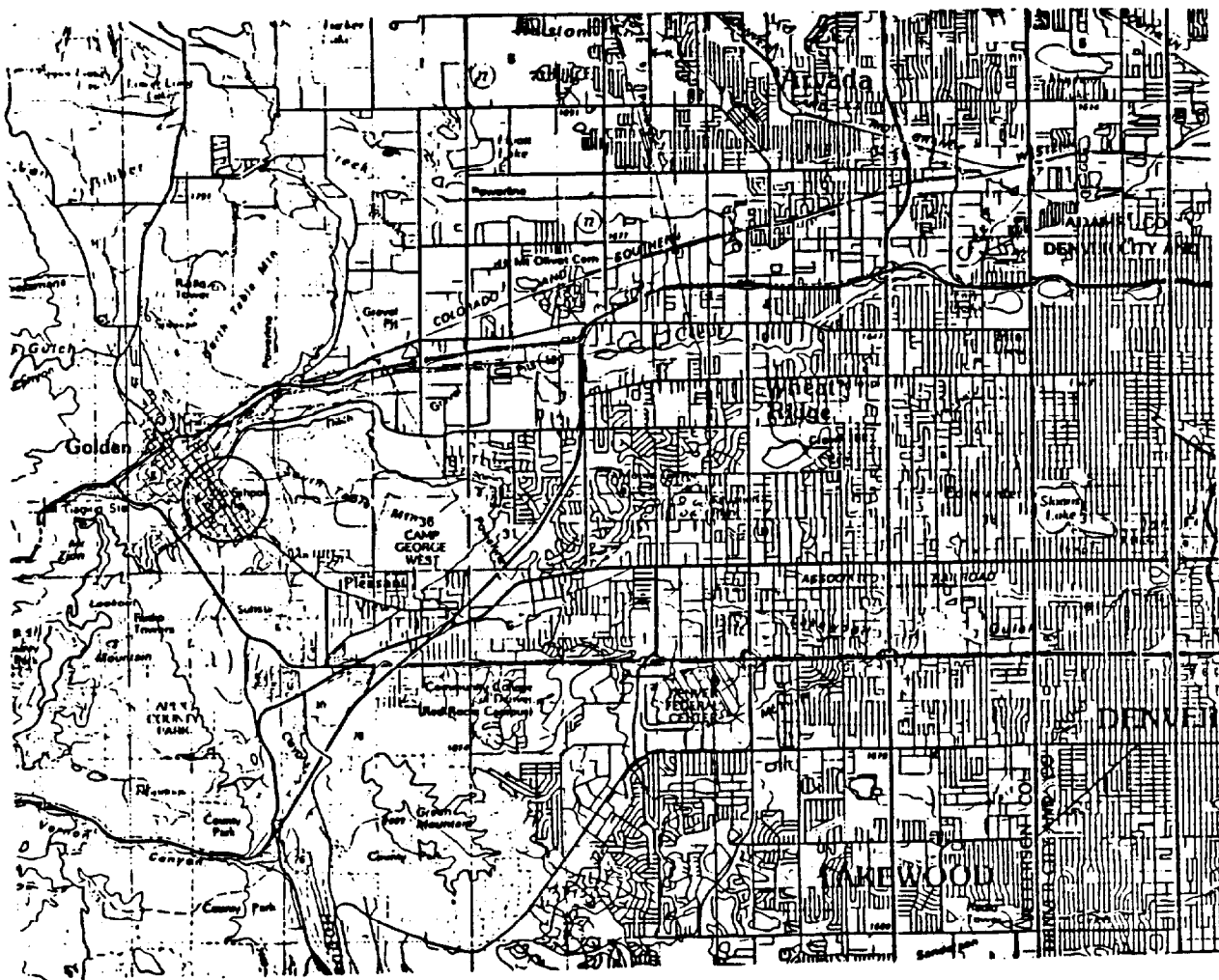
Owner History

The Colorado School of Mines Research Institute is the current owner of the facility. During the contract period (the 1950s), the Institute was referred to as the Colorado School of Mines Research Foundation, Inc.

Radiological History and Status

A screening survey was performed by Department of Energy (DOE) Chicago Operations Office and Argonne National Laboratory personnel on December 7, 1977. Although some measurable levels of radiation were noted, no action was recommended. The facility is operating under a State license for research using uranium and is being monitored by the organization's radiation protection officer. Any residual radioactivity due to AEC work would be indistinguishable from activity resulting from current licensed operations.

Based on a review of historical records and radiological survey results, DOE determined that no remedial action is warranted at the Colorado School of Mines site. The site has been eliminated from consideration for inclusion in the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program. The final elimination report was completed in fiscal year 1987.



Location of the Colorado School of Mines
in Golden, Colorado

Documentation supporting the Department's decision will be available for public review at the Department's Public Reading Room located in Room 1E-190 of the Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C.

If you have any questions regarding this decision or the availability of the material at the reading room, please contact Andrew Wallo of my staff at 303-353-5439.

Sincerely,

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James J. Fiore, Director
Division of Facility and Site
Decommissioning Projects
Office of Nuclear Energy

Enclosures

cc:

T. Looby, Colorado
Department of Health

bcc:

W. Cottrell, ORNL, w/o enclosures
Aerospace, w/enclosures

NE-20 RF

NE-23 RF

Wallo RF

NEG (4)

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